

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 02514 191005Z

21

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 EB-07

NRC-05 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

MC-02 ACDA-07 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 /077 W

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P 190950Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4935

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABU DHABI 2514

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : MASS, TC

SUBJECT : POSSIBLE SALE OF M16A1 RIFLES

REF: ABU DHABI 2454

1. FOLLOWING BOTH FOR DEPT'S INFORMATION AS WELL AS FOR IMMEDIATE RELAY TO R.E. ROY, INTERNATIONAL SALES MANAGER, COLT FIREARMS IN HARTFORD. ROY SHOULD BE ASKED TO PASS SUBSTANCE AS WELL TO MR. FRIESE OF OLIN/WINCHESTER.

2. AT HIS REQUEST I WENT TO CALL SEPT. 19 ON COL. ABDULLA ABDUL GALIL (AS DIRECTOR FOR ARMAMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION HE MADE CLEAR HE, NOT COL. MUHAMMAD ABDUL RAHMAN, IS IN CHARGE OF THIS MATTER UNDER GEN. KHALDI). UNFORTUNATELY NEWS NOT AS GOOD AS WE WOULD HAVE HOPED. COL. ABDUL GALIL STATES THAT CONCEPT OF COMPETITION BETWEEN RIFLES OF SAME CALIBER AS M16A1 HAS BEEN REVISED AND THAT COMMITTEE IS BEING FORMED TO MAKE ASSESSMENT. FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN PROMISED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 10.

3. I TOLD COL. ABDUL GALIL THAT THIS WAS, OF COURSE, THEIR DECISION TO MAKE. MOREOVER GIVEN TESTING M16A1 HAD HAD IN ACTUAL COMBAT I WAS SURE THAT IT WOULD STAND
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PAGE 02 ABU DH 02514 191005Z

UP WELL IN SUCH COMPETITION. I NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT

WITH DECISION DELAYED ALMOST ONE MONTH, POSSIBILITY OF MEETING MID-TO-LATE NOVEMBER DELIVERY DATE WAS LIKELY TO DISAPPEAR. COL. ABDUL GALIL ACCEPTED THAT, BUT NOTED IN PASSING "MAYBE THEY COULD STILL GET US SOME."

4. IT IS CLEARLY UNFORTUNATE THAT WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO AVOID COMPETITION. I AM NOT EVEN SURE THAT IT WILL BE LIMITED TO ITALIAN AND GERMAN MODELS OF THE SAME CALIBER. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT BRITS HAVE BEEN PUSHING THEIR NEW RIFLE AS WELL. IN ANY CASE THERE IS LITTLE WE CAN DO BUT WAIT AND SEE. IT MIGHT REPEAT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF WE WERE ABLE TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT DELIVERIES UNDER REVISED SCHEDULE. IF COLT COULD DELIVER EVEN 1000, PERHAPS LESS, RIFLES UNDER THIS TIGHT SCHEDULE (AND IF LICENSE COULD BE ISSUED IN TIME) IT COULD HELP CASE, BUT I AM FRANKLY NOT SURE. PLEASE ADVISE. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
PEALE

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